

# INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

## County of Los Angeles

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DEANNE TILTON DURFEE  
Executive Director

**January 21, 2014**

**HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**County of Los Angeles**  
**383 Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**ADOPTED**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

12 January 21, 2014

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Dear Supervisors:**

### **CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT FUNDING (AB 2994 SURPLUS CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND)**

**3 VOTES**

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve extending funding allocations for an additional 2 years from surplus funds available through AB 2994 for two contracts previously approved by the Board and authorize and delegate authority to the Director, or designee, of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to extend these contracts as follows :

- \$115,800 annual contract amount for **Friends of the Family (FOF)** for a Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange Program in Supervisorial District III from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016 for a maximum contract sum of \$231,600.
- \$109,000 annual contract amount for **Grace Resource Center (GRC)** for a Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange Program in Supervisorial District V from May 15, 2014 to May 14, 2016 for a maximum contract sum of \$218,000.



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2. Delegate authority to the Director of DCFS, or designee, to execute amendments to increase/decrease these contracts in the event of budget allocation increases or decreases not to exceed 10 percent of the Maximum Annual Contract Sum. Approval from County Counsel will be obtained prior to executing such amendments, and the Director will notify the Board and the CEO in writing within 10 business days after execution.

### BACKGROUND

In 1982, the Governor of California signed into law two bills aimed at preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. The first bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 1733/Papan (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982), authorized the allocation of state funding to counties for child abuse prevention and intervention services offered by public and private, non-profit agencies.

The second law, AB 2994/Imbrecht (Chapter 1399, Statutes of 1982), established a County Children's Trust Fund for the purpose of funding child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private, nonprofit organizations. AB 2994 requires that \$4.00 of any fee for a certified copy of a birth certificate shall be paid to a County Children's Trust Fund.

Both of these laws provide that a designated multi-disciplinary child abuse council develop and recommend funding priorities to the Board of Supervisors. In Los Angeles County, the designated child abuse council is the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN).

As previously pointed out in the adopted Board Letters first approving funding for these programs, ICAN engaged in a very serious and lengthy process to review and evaluate the proposals for these programs. ICAN formed a special Ad Hoc Group comprised of members from numerous County and City agencies including the Department of Children and Family Services, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. This Ad Hoc Group held face-to-face meetings and engaged in an extensive



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process to vet these proposals so that any concerns regarding the proposals could be addressed, and to reach consensus regarding recommending approval for funding the programs. Both programs were also approved by the ICAN Policy Committee.

### RECOMMENDED PROGRAMS

#### Family Visitation Center and Safe Child Custody Exchange Programs

These two programs are connected and have been implemented in separate supervisorial districts through two linked non-profit community based agencies, **Friends of the Family in District III and Grace Resource Center in District V.**

The program for Family Visitation Centers designates local churches or local facilities where meaningful visits can take place between children in out-of-home care and their birth parents in a safe, child and family friendly environment. The centers are a place where the birth parents can have monitored, supervised visitation with their children in a setting that is conducive to parent/child interaction. The Safe Child Custody Exchange Program assists parents in the transfer of their children from one to the other for visitation and/or custody. The program provides a safe environment within which custody exchanges are handled peacefully and without trauma to the children. This program partners with local law enforcement to assure the visitation exchanges take place at safe exchange sites.

#### Justification

These programs were set up as two-year demonstration projects. Given the extremely positive feedback received about these two programs, everyone involved believes it is important for these programs to continue to operate and for the funding to be continued. Feedback and evaluative information provided by DCFS has indicated that these programs have adjusted their services to accomplish the goals established when the programs were first evaluated for funding and are meeting critical unmet needs for children, youth and families. ICAN, in consultation with the DCFS Program Managers responsible for monitoring



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these programs, is recommending that these programs be extended for an additional two-year period.

Friends of the Family currently has three visitation sites that are in use and over 80% of the scheduled visits actually take place. Friends of the Family has developed a training curriculum for coaches on how to best monitor visits that is highly regarded and they are consistently asked to train other visitation center programs.

Grace Resource Center, with the assistance of volunteers and networking with building contractors was able to refurbish a group of dilapidated homes to use as a community location for the services they provide. These homes now provide a very inviting setting for the visitations and have flower gardens and other outside areas for visitation purposes. They hold bi-monthly meetings with DCFS Regional staff and staff from other agencies. The DCFS staff is extremely pleased to have these sites for monitored visitation.

In fact, these programs are so highly regarded, when the Family Law Court in the Antelope Valley learned of the visitation program offered through Grace they began referring families with domestic violence concerns to Grace for monitored visitation. The Family Law Court in Friends of the Family's area also expressed a need for monitored visitation. However, the Family Visitation and Safe Child Custody Exchange Programs are funded contracted services for Dependency Court referred families and the contracts for these services do not provide for them to be offered to Family Law Court referred families. If the contract were to be amended to include Family Law Court referred families then they could be served by the Family Visitation Program. The Family Law Court in Antelope Valley has stated to Grace that monitored family visitation services would be a great benefit to families in Supervisorial District V. The same would be true for Family Law clients in Supervisorial District III, however, these services are not in the scope of their contracts and the funding is not currently sufficient to meet the needs of both the Dependency Court referred families and the Family Law Court referred families.



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FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the County. AB 2994 funds are birth certificate surcharge funds deposited into the County's Children's Trust Fund. The DCFS Finance Section has assured ICAN that there are sufficient funds available in the Children's Trust Fund to fund each of these two programs for another two years.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DCFS has responsibility for administering contracts between the County and private, non-profit community based agencies that receive funding through AB 2994. The overall goal of this funding is to support child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment efforts and activities to help protect the families and children of Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Deanne Tilton

Executive Director

Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

DT:es

c: Sheriff Leroy Baca, ICAN Chairperson  
William Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Phillip Browning, Director, DCFS  
ICAN Policy Committee  
Children's Board Deputies

